



Kenneth Eugene Carter Jr.

February 18, 1935 - April 6, 2025

On April 6, 2025, Reverend Dr. Kenneth Eugene Carter, Jr, 90, of Tyler, TX, passed into the loving arms of his Savior and Lord, whom he taught about and introduced others to for decades.

Ken was born in San Antonio, TX on February 18, 1935, to Kenneth E. Carter Sr. and Doris McAuliffe Carter. He and his younger sister, Camille, were lifelong buddies and “partners in crime” throughout their childhood. Ken graduated from Carter-Riverside High School in Ft. Worth, TX in 1953, where he had been a cheerleader all 4 years, Captain of the ROTC program, President of both the Allied Youth Society, and the Jr. Red Cross. He entered The Rice Institute (now Rice University) in 1953, graduating with a BA in Economics in 1958. While serving on the Student Council at Rice, he met the beautiful lady and Vice President of the Freshman Class, who would become his lifetime partner and wife, Mary Alice “Freddie” Frederick. They were married on Valentine's Day, 1955 and recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Ken and Freddie were blessed with a daughter, Kathy, and a son, Buddy.

Upon graduation from Rice, Ken entered the Army as an officer in the Corps of Engineers, eventually obtaining the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He served for 2 years in Mineral Wells, TX as an executive officer and later as a commanding officer of Headquarters Company. He remained in the Army reserves for 2

years while he began a career with Ford Motor Company, Dallas, in their Junior Executive Program. He excelled while at Ford and received a series of promotions during his time there. However, in 1962, Ken felt called to the ministry as God put a call upon his heart while attending a church retreat. He then left Ford and entered seminary at Perkins School of Theology at SMU. At this time, he was serving as Youth Minister at Kirkwood Methodist Church in Irving, TX. Next, he was appointed pastor of Wheatland Methodist Church in Dallas, TX, while still pursuing his theology degree. Ken graduated from SMU in 1965, receiving a Bachelor of Divinity degree, with Honors. He pastored at Wheatland for almost 5 years, watching attendance grow from 177 to 400 members.

In 1967, Ken was appointed as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church (FUMC), Carrollton, TX. Soon after, Ken and Freddie had the opportunity to travel to Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida to receive training in a new evangelism outreach program called “Evangelism Explosion (EE).” They were critical in bringing this program to the North Texas area, and because of this evangelist outreach, literally thousands were reached for Christ and the church grew exponentially. Ken was a dynamic preacher with many recalling how fast he could talk, how beautifully he could tell a story, and how you always left feeling challenged and inspired. Ken was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY in 1982 in recognition of his work in evangelism.

After 16 years at FUMC, Ken retired from the ministry and pursued positions with A.L. Williams as Regional Vice President, and later with Resource Services, Inc (RSI), a company which implements fundraising campaigns for church building programs. He was a Senior Vice President with RSI. Both these positions allowed Ken to use the business talents he had gained at Rice. The position with RSI was particularly meaningful as he focused on what he loved best – the result of evangelism – the need for church growth and

funding of church building campaigns. Ken retired from RSI in 2000, and Ken and Freddie divided their time between their beloved Pagosa Springs, CO and Holly Lake Ranch, TX. Both were avid golfers, and they loved spending time with family and friends and maintained their close ties to the church. Ken most enjoyed telling whoever would listen about Jesus (including every caregiver in the hospital in recent weeks!)

Ken no doubt accomplished much in his 90 years, but he would tell you his greatest accomplishments are his 70-year marriage, his two children and their families, his numerous friendships, and all who came to know or deepen their faith in the Lord through something he shared. A very long obituary boils down to one word... JESUS!

Ken is predeceased by his parents, Kenneth E. "Nick" Carter, Sr. and Doris McAuliffe Carter and his sister, Camille Staples and her husband, Bill.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Mary Alice "Freddie" Carter, daughter, Dr. Kathryn Allyson Carter, son, Kenneth E. "Buddy" Carter, III (wife, Lori McAmis Carter), grandsons, Joshua (DeenaRae), Samuel (Haley), Benjamin (Kait), great grandchildren, Noah, Grae, Myles, Eli, Wade, Charlie and one more only a few days away. He is also survived by nieces, Vickie Hoppensteadt (Walt), Karen Buell (Carter), Kim DuBose and nephews, Chuck (Elaine) Frederick and Mike (Theresa) Frederick.

A burial service will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 3:00 pm at Holly Tree Cemetery in Hawkins, TX. Come casual and feel free to represent his beloved Dallas Cowboys if desired.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2:00 pm on Thursday, April 17 at Green Acres Baptist Church Chapel, Tyler, TX with a reception immediately

following.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his memory to the Institute for Creation Research (Dallas, TX) <https://ppay.co/2H7PkK8LLYI>, SonScape Retreats (Divide, CO) <https://sonscaperetreats.churchcenter.com/giving/to/carter-memorial> or Samaritan's Purse <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/memorial-page/rev-kenneth-e-carter-jr-tyler-tx/>.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 16. 3:00 PM (CT)

Holly Tree Cemetery
1620 S Farm to Market Road 2869
Hawkins, TX 75765

Celebration of Life

APR 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church - Chapel
1607 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75701

Reception following service

APR 17 (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church
1607 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

BH

“ My favorite memory of Ken happened a couple of times when he, as part of a sermon where it fit, would teach the guys how to properly tuck in a shirttail. It shocked me the first time I saw it but then after the first time it seemed totally natural for him to do it. Since he was in the corporate world for a bit of his life he thought you should, as a professional, dress the part and proper tucking was just part of it. Then there was always the guarantee that you would get two sermons in one simply because he talked so fast. (Terrible if you were trying to take notes. 😬)

Bill Hetzel - May 14, 2025 at 09:21 AM

KM

“ We were blessed to have spent time with Ken and Freddie while they were in Pagosa Springs. Ken gave us some good financial advice. We always spoke baseball with them and enjoyed getting to know them both. Our prayers are with the Carter family but especially Freddie as she spent 70 years with Ken and I'm sure will miss him greatly.



Kelly and Pat Miller - April 17, 2025 at 06:21 PM

JD

“ Ken pastored FUMC of Carrollton while I attended in the 1970's. It was an energetic, spirit filled congregation. His enthusiasm, sincerity and love of God built a strong foundation for a growing church. I was proud to have him preside over my wedding to Karen in 1979.

Schooling eventually took my family to Houston and at a later date to Tyler. As life's surprises occur, Ken and I crossed paths again and he became a patient of mine allowing me to participate in his physical care (a small payback for his spiritual care for me). He was an asset to the world.

John Deaton - April 16, 2025 at 07:56 PM

TW

“ The Wheeler's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Eugene Carter Jr..

The Wheeler's - April 16, 2025 at 07:41 AM

TW

“ The Wheeler's purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kenneth Eugene Carter Jr..



The Wheeler's - April 16, 2025 at 07:41 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Kenneth Eugene Carter Jr..*



April 16, 2025 at 06:47 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth Eugene Carter Jr..

April 16, 2025 at 06:47 AM



“ *I was given this bible when I was 8 years old in 1979 but I still remember getting it as well as my family going to his Church nearly Beltline in Carrollton. God Bless You Pastor. Thank you for the best gift*



Jason Carrington - April 13, 2025 at 12:04 AM

DN

“ I First met Ken while in the hospital December 17, 1974.. where he shared the gospel with me. He talked about how we could know for certain that we would go to heaven when we die. I prayed with him that day to accept Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Savior. My life totally changed that day. Not long after my then husband also accepted Jesus. We traveled to Israel a few times with Ken and Freddie. Even went on a ski trip to Colorado. My husband cut their hair for many years. So thankful that we've had them as friends. I know that the day will come where we will see him again in heaven.

Donna "Hegemann" Neugent - April 11, 2025 at 10:57 PM